

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus comprising:

an imaging section for photographing an observation image;

a display section for displaying the observation image based on an image signal acquired with said imaging section;

an edge detection section for performing signal processing on the image signal acquired with said imaging section and detecting edge information on an edge contained in the observation image;

a point indication section for indicating an arbitrary point in the observation image displayed with said display section;

an edge extraction section for extracting an edge section on the periphery of the point indicated with said point indication section based on the edge information on the observation image; and

a highlight section for performing predetermined image processing on the edge section extracted with said edge extraction section and displaying the resulting edge section over the observation image.

2. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said edge detection section performs arithmetic operation of geometric information on the detected edge section, and displays the geometric information on said display section.

3. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said edge detection section detects only the section matching a predetermined pattern in the edge

information contained in the observation image.

4. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said predetermined pattern is at least one of a straight line, a circle, and an arc.

5. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an arithmetic operation section for executing predetermined arithmetic operation based on the extracted edge section.

6. (Original) A magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said point indication section indicates a plurality of points in a single observation image to select a plurality of edge sections and said edge extraction section extracts the respective edge sections corresponding to these points, and wherein said arithmetic operation section executes predetermined arithmetic operation based on the selected edge sections and display the result of arithmetic operation on said display section.

7. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image which uses a magnifying observation apparatus comprising an imaging section for photographing an observation image and a display section for displaying the observation image based on an image signal acquired with said imaging section, said method comprising:

performing signal processing the image signal acquired with said imaging section and detecting edge information on an edge contained in the observation image;

indicating an arbitrary point in the observation image displayed with said display section;
extracting an edge section on the periphery of the point indicated based on the edge information on the observation image; and
performing predetermined image processing on the edge section extracted and displaying the resulting edge section over the observation image.

8. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image according to claim 7, further comprising;

performing arithmetic operating of geometric information on the detected edge section and displaying the geometric information on the display section.

9. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image according to claim 7, wherein said edge detection step detects only the section matching a predetermined pattern in the edge information contained in the observation image.

10. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image according to claim 9, wherein said predetermined pattern is at least one of a straight line, a circle, and an arc.

11. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image according to claim 7, further comprising:

executing predetermined arithmetic operation based on the extracted edge section.

12. (Original) A method for observing a magnified image according to claim 11, wherein

said indication step indicates a plurality of points in a single observation image to select a plurality of edge sections and said extraction step extracts the respective edge sections corresponding to these points, and wherein said arithmetic operation step executes the arithmetic operation based on the selected edge sections and displays the results of the arithmetic operation on said display section.

13. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for operating the magnifying observation apparatus an imaging section for photographing an observation image and a display section for displaying the observation image based on an image signal acquired with said imaging section, said instructions comprising;

performing signal processing the an image signal acquired with said imaging section and detecting edge information on an edge contained in the observation image;

indicating an arbitrary point in the observation image displayed with said display section;

extracting an edge section on the periphery of the point indicated based on the edge information on the observation image; and

performing predetermined image processing on the edge section extracted and displaying the resulting edge section over the observation image.

14. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for operating the magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 13, said instructions further comprising;

performing arithmetic operating of geometric information on the detected edge section and displaying the geometric information on the display section.

15. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for operating the magnifying observation apparatus according to claim 13, said instructions further comprising;
executing predetermined arithmetic operation based on the extracted edge section.